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Chief, ICAPS

Assistant Director for Operations

Proposed FDB Program for Semi-Centralization in the Handling of Foreign Language Materials of Interest to the IAC.

1. Definitions

The following definitions are offered to explain terminology to be used in outlining this proposed program.

a. Foreign Language Document

This term will mean any material written or printed in a language other than English.

(1) Overt foreign language documents--all openly published foreign language material. Examples: serial publications, books and monographs.

(2) Covert foreign language documents--all other foreign language documents not included in (1) above.

b. Exploitation

Exploitation as hereinafter used means the process of systematic extraction of information of intelligence value from overt foreign language documents in accordance with requirements of the intelligence agencies. This process employs one or several of the following methods: scanning, bibliographic listing, indexing, abstracting, extracting, summarizing, discriminate translating and compiling.

c. Translation

Translation will hereinafter be used to mean that type of indiscriminate translation specifically requested and literally carried out by the translation service.

2. Proposed Responsibilities of FDB

The following program is proposed on the understanding that the present T/O of FDB must be considered as a fixed quantity. The overall picture of what work must be done in the field of foreign language documents was considered from this point of view. It was then determined which portions of the work could and should be handled most efficiently centrally. The following delimitation of the responsibilities of FDB as a central service is based on this estimate of capabilities.

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a. It is believed that one copy of all overt foreign language documents of intelligence interest received by IAC members should be forwarded to FDB as a central repository in Washington. This would simplify channeling of such material to and in Washington. It would also increase knowledge of the existence and the availability of such material to all the intelligence agencies.

b. All overt foreign language documents received by FDB would be split into two categories; (1) That material to be exploited centrally for all the intelligence agencies, (2) All other material. All material not exploited centrally would be listed and such listings would be disseminated for the information of the intelligence agencies. All materials not exploited centrally, thus would be made readily available on loan to not only the agency specifically interested but to all the intelligence agencies.

c. Of the material received it is believed that serial publications, including both press and periodicals, can best be exploited centrally for the intelligence agencies. Serial publications arrive in a steady flow and must be exploited systematically. If this is not done, a huge backlog develops which cannot be adequately exploited at a future date. In this way much information of value is lost to intelligence.

d. It is finally believed that all material not exploited centrally should, however, be centrally indexed in order to provide greater usability to the intelligence agencies and CIA. If this plan were followed, whenever one of the intelligence agencies wished to explore a particular point or subject, FDB could readily point to all the foreign language material received on this particular subject. In this way much time would be saved for the intelligence agency, and FDB would be kept informed of all such projects undertaken.

e. Similarly, in the case of individual documents, FDB would be aware of which ones were being exploited or translated elsewhere. This would be of assistance to the efforts of FDB endeavors to coordinate translation work. At the present time a central locator file is being maintained as a service to the intelligence agencies so that duplication in translation may be avoided. As a further step in this field, FDB has proposed that a "Consolidated Translation List" of translations in progress be disseminated to each of the intelligence agencies for their information and guidance. Under this proposed program the central locator file would be continued and expanded if necessary.

3. Translation of Material Not Exploited Centrally

a. With the understanding that the present T/O of FDB must be considered as a fixed quantity, then FDB would be in a position to provide translation service to CIA only for both overt and covert foreign language documents. A possible exception might be an undetermined quantity of translation work in the more obscure languages which will be needed by other intelligence agencies. Accordingly, there would remain the problems of translation of foreign language

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books and monographs and translation of covert foreign language documents required by the other intelligence agencies. Translation of this material could then be handled in one of three ways; (1) By each agency's own translation section. (2) Through contract work. (3) By the establishment of a central translation pool for the intelligence agencies.

b. The establishment of a central pool would be dependent, as this entire program is dependent upon availability of personnel. Again considering FDB T/O as fixed, personnel for such a central pool for the other agencies would have to be supplied by those agencies; for example, good use could be made of military personnel now in language training centers such as the MISLS at Monterey. If such a pool were established, overhead could be saved and constant use could be made of personnel for the benefit of all. FDB could operate and administer a central pool of this type.

c. If this is not deemed advisable, stronger coordination of the translation efforts of all the intelligence agencies, plus a centralized effort on the most important material, would in any case result from the program outlined above.

GEORGE G. CAREY

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